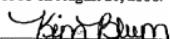


AUG 21 2008

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-571-273-8300 on August 21, 2008.

Kim Blum

Name (Print)



Signature

Expedited Procedure Requested
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michaluk) Examiner: Lois L. Zheng
)
Application Number: 10/042,549) Group Art Unit: 1793
)
Filed: January 9, 2002) Confirmation No.: 5470
)
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01))

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 21, 2008

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated February 21, 2008, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response. A petition for a three-month extension of time and the requisite fee are being submitted herewith, thus making the response due on or before August 21, 2008.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.

OK TO ENTER: /LZ/